CASE STUDY

Accelerating Your PAM Deployment with SPHEREboard: How it Works

Accelerate time-to-value, increase adoption, and maximize efficiency by making SPHEREboard part of your new PAM deployment.

Privileged Access Management (PAM) has become a critical component of nearly every large cybersecurity program. With the rise of identity-related cyberattacks, and the prominence of insider threat activities, security leaders understand the importance of protecting identities with access to privileged (or sensitive) accounts and the data and information they touch.

Modern Privileged Access Management (PAM) solutions offer comprehensive capabilities that include plug-and-play technology integrations, superior vaulting capabilities, and the ability to help organizations adhere to compliance requirements. Though each PAM solution has its own unique value, they all set about to achieve the same central goal: to manage and protect privileged accounts.

One of the most complex and time-consuming challenges in the process of architecting and implementing a new PAM solution is identifying and successfully vaulting all the accounts that exist within an organization's digital estate.

With a focus on accelerating these goals, improving deployment, and adoption of your PAM platform. SPHEREboard was purpose-built with the following challenges in mind:

❯ You need to know your privileged access attack surface before you deploy a PAM solution, ideally during the architecting phase of a PAM deployment. Many businesses approach this backwards and end up defining processes on an assumed scope that is dramatically different than reality.

❯ Finding best practices around safe structures and access models to ensure least privilege while ensuring the security is not impeding users' ability to perform their roles, can feel overwhelming and ambiguous

❯ Account ownership is generally an afterthought but can make a huge impact when onboarding accounts

❯ Adoption and onboarding accounts can be slow and inconsistent
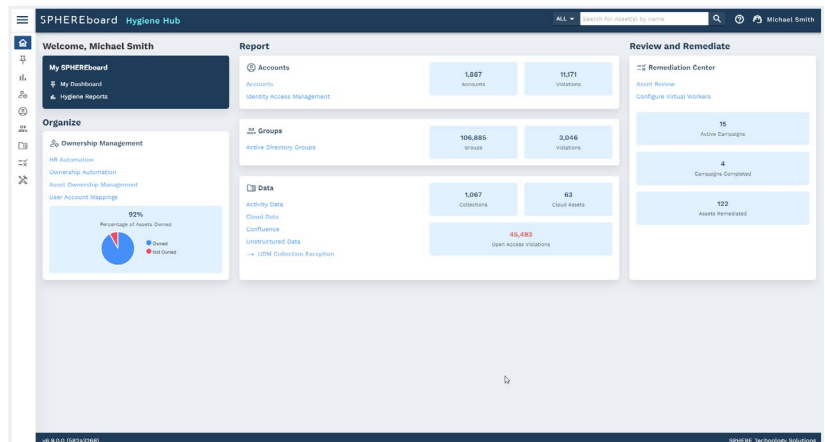
Accelerated Time To Value

SPHEREboard is designed to provide visibility quickly so you can find and fix security issues immediately while putting in place the necessary process to ensure future issues are resolved across a reduced attack surface.

Discover your PAM landscape in Days

In days, you will begin to identify new accounts you previously didn't even know existed.

Reduce risk in Weeks

Within weeks, you will identify high-risk accounts that should immediately be secured and leverage the solution to do so.

Prevent future breaches in Months

In months, you'll put in place the proper monitoring to ensure there is constant focus on a minimized attack surface.

Delivering Immediate Value with Intelligent Discovery

As your organization ramps up its new PAM instance, it is critical to understand which accounts exist, what type of accounts they are, and where they reside. It is equally important to move accounts to a protected state as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, basic discovery processes often leave you with a list of many accounts, very little context, and the inability to effectively prioritize and scope. As a result, organizations risk over scoping their initial deployment and tying up funds and resources that could have been used elsewhere. Conversely, organizations may under scope their deployment, ultimately impacting performance, reducing adoption and exceeding their budget due to unplanned spend.

SPHEREboard enhances your account discovery capabilities and enables you to understand the full scope of the accounts in your landscape before, during, and after your PAM solution is deployed.

It aggregates data from multiple sources using a built-in analytics engine to provide missing context that enables you to see exactly which accounts are of high-risk and need to be protected. Then, by linking these accounts to humans, SPHEREboard ensures you know how to properly size your environment to meet your organization's needs.

You can then leverage this actionable data to quickly identify high-risk accounts, understand how they are being used, and map out an effective onboarding plan, without any disruption to your existing business processes.

Catalog Owners for Every Account

After you have identified the accounts that need to be onboarded into your PAM solution, you have another arduous task in front of you, verifying the correct owners of these accounts. Without the proper owners, accounts cannot truly be protected.

Typically, the repetitive nature of ownership campaigning and follow-up is a major burden for already over-extended security teams. SPHEREboard accurately and completely identifies owners of all accounts, including obscure accounts such service or local accounts.

Review Accounts with Owners and Remediate at Scale

Simply add the accounts that have been identified as missing privilege access controls to a campaign and SPHEREboard will automatically reach out to account owners and capture responses to campaign questions. This enables you to accurately monitor onboarding progress, eliminate manual processes, improve data accuracy, and ensure that no accounts slip through the cracks. Not only does this provide an audit trail of each interaction, but also automates the tedious and time-consuming tasks of reminders, escalations, reassignments, and more.

Once responses to campaign questions are received, SPHEREboard's Virtual Worker technology can process the responses and automatically onboard accounts into new or existing safes. The Virtual Workers also apply our industry best practice security model by using one of our pre-built templates or allowing you to create a custom template to apply your company's standard configuration. Once again, improve the quality of your PAM program by ensuring that consistent settings and effective controls are put in place every time.

Save Time and Reduce Complexity

One of the most demanding aspects of deploying and implementing a new PAM instance is managing time and resources. Your business and technology teams that are responsible for the implementation will have to collaborate with disparate teams and stakeholders to avoid critical system outages.

Some of the tasks or what SPHERE refers to as "handshakes" include:

› Requesting and creating safes

› Requesting, creating, and mapping AD groups to safe permissions

› Adding privileged accounts to the safes

› Applying correct platforms to various accounts that control different settings like password complexity, workflow, and password management settings

Companies typically have multiple teams participate in these manual workflows, creating inefficiencies in the process, allowing many opportunities for human error, and miscommunication during handoffs. All of which greatly slows the effort toward risk reduction and potentially opens your organization up to greater risk.

SPHEREboard's integration with your PAM solution removes the need for these resource-demanding workflows. The platform streamlines and automates the process of safe creation, creation of AD access groups, mapping of AD access groups to safe permissions, and vaulting privileged accounts. In addition to making the process smoother, this also ensures that safe access follows a strict least privilege model every time a safe is created with SPHEREboard. Pairing this integration with our intelligent discovery technology and automated ownership methodologies provides efficient and effective account discovery and user adoption across your organization.

Sustainability

SPHEREboard's value goes well beyond the successful onboarding of all human and non-human accounts into PAM. It also delivers a long-lasting identity hygiene program that continuously assesses your privileged access controls and ensures that any control gaps are quickly identified and resolved, to serve as the cornerstone for risk management and governance for your organization.

SPHEREboard automates other traditionally manual tasks such as:

› Pruning access that is no longer needed

› Ensuring critical governance metadata is in place (i.e., ownership of service accounts)

› Onboarding accounts to the PAM solution for password rotation

› Introducing proper reporting and tracking for ongoing sustainability

SPHEREboard's Stock and Flow reporting will show the number of unvaulted accounts (Stock), the accumulation of new accounts (Flow Accumulated) and the number of new accounts requiring vaulting (Flow).
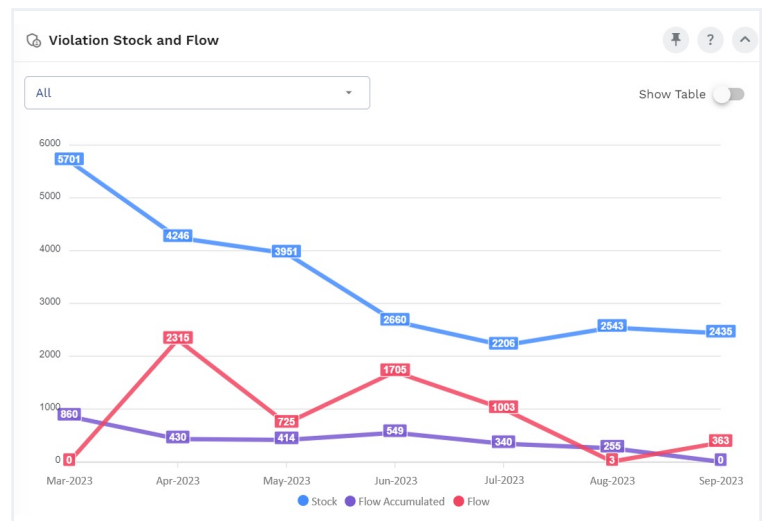
SPHEREboard's Stock and Flow reporting will show the number of unvaulted accounts (Stock), the flow of new accounts (Flow Accumulated) and the number of accounts being vaulted (Flow).

Maximize The Value of Your PAM Investment

Many security professionals become overwhelmed by the granularity that PAM tools provide and often struggle to maximize the value of their investment, due to a tidal wave of risk. SPHEREboard reduces this complexity by using controls defined by your organization and enforcing industry best practices to quickly and effectively identify the scope of privileged accounts and simplify the entire vaulting process.

By augmenting the PAM platform for a faster and smoother deployment, SPHEREboard delivers:

›   Complete visibility through intelligent discovery

›   Identify and campaign with owners of accounts, groups, servers, and more to a campaign to streamline communications and decision-making for proper resolution.

›   Automated remediation steps for ALL accounts and groups in your organization's environment

›   Ongoing risk reduction and prevention via SPHEREboard's Virtual Worker technology

Whether you are past implementation and are maintaining the yearly churn of the privileged account lifecycle or have yet to begin your PAM journey, SPHEREboard is equipped to help your organization realize the full potential of your PAM program. Take the first step towards achieving identity hygiene with SPHERE by contacting us today.
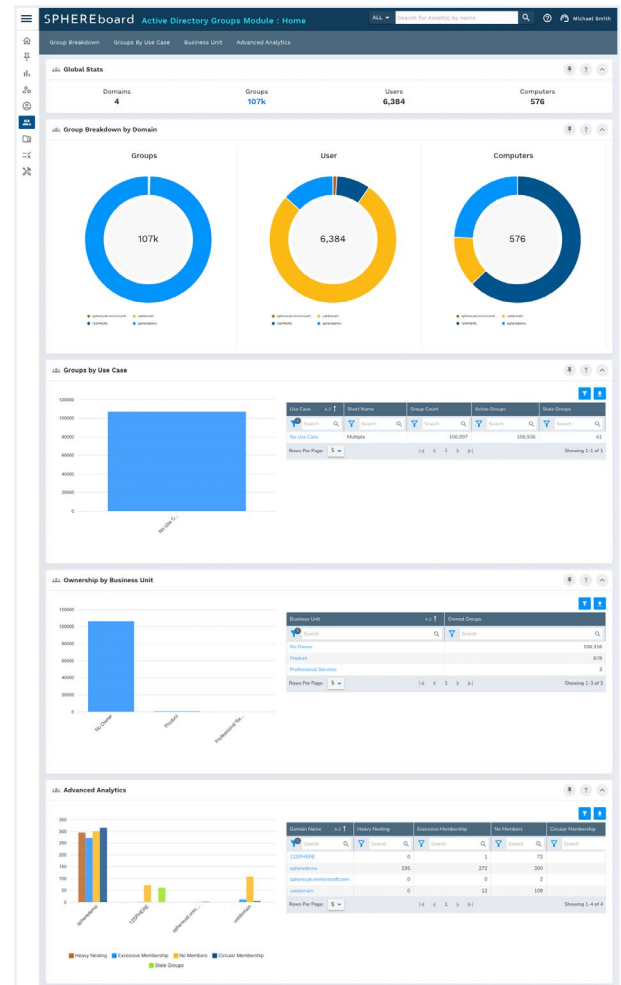
About SPHERE

SPHERE is the global leader in Identity Hygiene. We are dedicated to reshaping modern identity programs by embedding this foundational fabric, enabling organizations to quickly reduce risks. We work through an identity lens that protects an organization's accounts, data, and infrastructure. Our solutions deliver immediate time-to-value by leveraging automation to discover, remediate and secure identities, now and forever.

Driven by our core values of passion, empathy, and authenticity, our vision drives us to continually innovate, helping our clients to sleep better knowing their attack surface is drastically reduced, thwarting the plans of bad actors every single day.

We're ready to help you address your Identity Hygiene and security challenges. To find out more about SPHERE and our solutions, please visit www.sphereco.com.